

Gaps for Friday:  
7:30-8; 12-12:30;  
3-3:30.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
October 11, 1934

Gaps for Sat.:  
9:30-10; 11:30-12;  
12-12:30.

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The Spoiled Child.

"I did not ask to be born and certainly not for you to be my parent." With these pretty little words a 14-year-old modern miss puts her mama to the wall. "Some little old red school house strap oil," Mr. O. O. McIntyre ventures, "would be just dandy for that."

Don't crush genius. Trouble is, many mamas and papas are on the receiving end of all the discipline exercised in the home. Children must not be punished. Mercy no! It's not the modern idea of training. They must be dealt with diplomatically as if they were foreign powers.

Buddy's napoleonic complex, Sisty's prima donna potencies, have to be protected and developed at all cost. Otherwise, the genius in the little darlings will be crushed.

Ask Buddy. This new theory of training has important corollaries. One of them seems to be this: the likes and dislikes of children must not be violated.

Shall we teach them Latin or Greek as mental discipline? Never mind questioning educators. Ask the children themselves. Try to woo Buddy to see the value of Latin or Greek as compared with playing golf! Buddy knows best after all what he needs.

Treat them as grown-ups. Another corollary: never cross the offspring. That's cruel. Parental kindness consists of satisfying all the children's whims, of buying them all they ask for, of letting them do anything and everything short of robbery.

The product of this system dreams that he would like to be a doctor. How thrilling to dress in a white smock, wear pointed whiskers, and be known the world over as a great surgeon!

The Professor frowns. The product goes to college and begins his studies. Zoology is difficult. One of his professors frowns menacingly at his lack of industry. Soon the product's desire to be a doctor begins to vanish. All of a sudden he develops interest in a "pie" course, like engineering.

He begins to see too that his character is flabby. He is utterly unable to do what he knows he ought to do. But to strengthen character he must discipline himself. This requires patient, hard, sustained effort. He isn't used to that. He tries and fails, and only indifferently ever tries again.

A short-cut to supremacy. This is the type of spoiled boy who, in after life, mistakes self-will for self-discipline, meanness for strength, respect and obedience for groveling weaknesses. His idea of leadership is always to be "agin the government." He sets up his own person, his own opinions as supreme. Since he rarely achieves the supremacy he hopes for, he satisfies his craving for supremacy by belittling, depreciating, criticizing others, especially those in authority.

The spoiled boy has become father of the spoiled young man. And the spoiled young man, Worthies, is the great worry of the world. Only liberal doses of well-oiled strap, self-administered, can cure him.

Thanks for \$20 so far contributed to Father Barron, N.D. man, now a missionary in Korea; for \$14 to take the Pamphlet Rack out of the red.

Mass for the team Sat. 6:25. On account of 11-o'clock dinner, breakfast will be at 7. Solemn High Mass (with sermon by Father Miltner) for Founder's Day, 8:00.

PRAYERS: Deceased, aunt of Emmett and Donald Murphy, uncle of John Gerrits, grandmother of Vernon Tetrault. Ill, Jim Bray (Howard) in a sanitarium at Milwaukee.